

Grace Presbyterian Gazette



January, 2023

PASTOR'S CORNER

BY PASTOR TERRY SIMM

It is hard to believe that another year has gone by. As we get older it just seems like time flies much faster. Whether you're a young person who has heard it or an older person who has felt it, I think you would agree with that statement. Recently, scientists have discovered why time seems to go faster as you age – and it might not be the answer you were expecting!

The European Review journal recently explains why it feels as though the sands of time move so much faster as we get older. Adrian Bejan from Duke University is the author behind this study and the subsequent paper. “The good news is that time isn’t actually moving faster as you get older. Well, “clock time” isn’t anyway. Instead, it’s all to do with an adult’s “mind time” and your brain’s processing power. As we get older, we are unable to process as many mental images per second as we could when we were children. (Ouch!) This means that our days seem shorter, compared to children who will feel as though they have more time due to being able to process more mental images.”

Therefore, as we look to a new year it is important to manage our time because it is slipping away. Our earthly stay is significantly shorter than we are inclined to think. As David so aptly points out in Psalm 39: 4-5: “*Show me, LORD, my life’s end, and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you.*

Everyone is but breath, even those who seem secure.” The apostle James 4: 14b echoes this: “*You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.*” Indeed, our time on earth is fleeting—in fact, it is incredibly small compared to eternity. To live as God would have us live, it is essential we make the **best** possible **use** of our allotted time.

We cannot neglect spending time with God, both in private and corporately. Most importantly, we need to schedule regular—daily—time with God. It is He who equips us to carry out the tasks He has given us. It is He who directs our days. The worst thing we could do is manage our time as if it belongs to us. Time belongs to Him, so ask for His wisdom in how to best use it, then proceed in confidence, sensitive to God’s corrections, and open to God-ordained interruptions along the way.

Regarding time, the Bible counsels that we need to place our focus on that which is eternal as opposed to the fleeting pleasures of this passing world. Time spent with God and getting to know Him, through reading His Word and prayer, is never wasted. As you look to a New Year do not forget to spend time building up the body of Christ and loving others with God’s love. It will be time well spent. We should live as if each minute counts—because it really does. God bless you in the New Year to come! ■

"THE DEACON'S POST"

When I think of new, this scripture comes to mind:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Each day God gives us a chance to have a new beginning, thanks be to God.

Your Deacons this past month helped six families in our church with aid, all thanks to the loving generosity of our community of believers, thank you.

We welcome two new deacons this month, Beth Hays and Herman Ellis. They will start officially in February so be on the lookout to hear from them if you are chosen to be in their under-shepherd groups.

We say goodbye to Karen Griffin and Jenny Harrison and thank them for their service!

As we begin a new we want to encourage you to plug in with your family at Grace in Wednesday night Bible study. Also, we offer two Sunday school classes as well, each at 9:30 on Sunday morning.

Two other ministry options open to you are joining either pastor Terry or myself at the nursing homes where we are providing worship services. There are many lonely people in the area nursing homes and we as believers are called to minister to them, but what you will likely find if you join Pastor Terry or me is that it is you that God is ministering to at these services.

Good luck with any and all of your New Year's resolutions!
In Christ, Joe Pruet, Moderator

A HUGE THANK YOU to all the shoebox donors in the Arkansas River Valley Area!! You helped us pass our 2022 goal of 20,202 Shoeboxes this year!! You packed 20,550 Shoeboxes!! And, each shoebox impacts an average of 7 people with the gospel - the child, their family and friends. So, your boxes will possibly share the Good News & Great Joy of our Lord and Savior to about 143,850 people!!!

BIRTHDAYS:

1/02 - Debbie McConkie; 1/07 - Jim Watkins; 1/09 - Ken Griffin; 1/09 - Olivia McConkie; 1/13 - Casee McConkie; 1/29 - Sharon Brown; 1/31 - Katie Scott

CURRENT PRAYER LIST AS OF (1/8/2023):

Prayers of thanks for Shurie, stepdaughter of Lavon Dunn's son, who returned home following her two-week plus hospital stay; Randle and Judy Tomlinson's son, Sedley has returned home from his open heart surgery to repair a kinked artery; Bill Conner, health concerns; Joe Dablock, has an appointment at CARTI in Little Rock, praying he can receive treatment there; Steve Hoffman, friend of Nancy Davis with cancer and transplant need; Jeff (cancer) and Jenny Whitehead, friends of Joe and Sue Dablock.

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